

Former Mooney educator sentenced to 6 months in jail in sex case

By Erik Gunn
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Brother John D. Walsh, the former Cardinal Mooney High School assistant principal who coerced two boys into his car for sexual acts, was sentenced yesterday to six months in jail and five years' probation.

Walsh's sentence, passed by Monroe County Court Judge Patricia D. Marks, also requires that he continue treatment he is now receiving at a Catholic-operated center in Jemez Springs, N.M.

Walsh's defense lawyer, G. Thomas White, said after the hearing that he was "shocked and dismayed" by the jail term, because it could break the continuity of the treatment program, which Walsh began last September.

A spokesman said the center, operated exclusively for priests and male members of Catholic religious orders, treats a vari-

ety of psychological and emotional problems, including difficulties in maintaining vows of celibacy and chastity.

Walsh "was doing well within the therapeutic treatment program he was involved with," White said. "There is no such program in this area."

White also suggested the six-month jail term conflicted with the requirement to continue treatment. "You order a person to continue in the program, and then you yank him out?"

Terrence Servis, the Monroe County assistant district attorney who prosecuted Walsh, said he did not agree.

"I was satisfied," Servis said of the sentence. "I thought it was appropriate."

Servis said he had not requested a specific sentence but had pointed out to Marks the seriousness of the crime involved.

Walsh, 43, pleaded guilty Jan. 21 to

charges of first-degree coercion and first-degree unlawful imprisonment. He admitted forcing two boys, ages 11 and 12, into



John D. Walsh

his car in downtown Rochester last August, driving them around, and offering money for a sexual act. The boys were later released near Village Gate Square on North Goodman Street.

There was no evidence an assault took place.

The treatment program in which Walsh is enrolled was begun 12 years ago by the Servants of the Paraclete, a religious order founded in 1947 to minister to priests.

"We help any priest who is in need —

any kind of need," Father Bill Perri, vicar general of the order, said in a telephone interview yesterday from Jemez Springs.

Perri said the program was "holistic" in nature, with a staff of 75 people including psychiatrists and psychologists.

"We approach a person from every dimension of their life — emotional, spiritual, psychological and physical — and try to help them integrate their life as a total human being," Perri said.

While the services offered by the program include treatment for psychosexual disorders and failure to follow vows of celibacy and chastity, Perri said that was one small part of the center's work.

"Poverty and obedience are two vows that are also very important," Perri said — and some priests seek the order's help when they have trouble living up to them.